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FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

A proposal to set up highway markers to call attention to features of scientific interest in four Pacific Northwest states has been advanced by a committee of the Northwest Scientific Association.

The association gave the committee its blessing to work with state highway commissions and historical societies to select sites for the markers in Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Under the plan the highway signs would mark sites of scientific interest in the fields of geology, geography, botany, forestry, agronomy, soil conservation, zoology, game management, engineering, social sciences, and possibly physics and chemistry through specialized industries.

Dr. R. A. Diettert, chairman of the Montana State University Botany Department, represents Montana on the committee, which is headed by Reuben C. Newcomb of the U. S. Geological Survey, Portland, Ore. Other members are W. Frank Scott, professor of geology, Washington State University; Roland Reid, professor of geology, University of Idaho, and Dean Henry P. Hanson of the Oregon State University Graduate School.

A resolution adopted by the association at its annual business meeting empowered the Committee on Highway Science Markers "to foster their emplacement, use and preservation by recommendations to the proper federal, state and local agencies concerned with highway and roadway maintenance."

Dr. Diettert noted that many states, including Montana, use highway markers at points of historical interest. The committee's project would supplement these signs with markers at sites of scientific interest, he explained. Such a program of science publicity would add to the enjoyment and enlightenment of motorists and strengthen appreciation of science by the general public, he commented.

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